



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
**MICHIGAN**  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL  
LANSING

SHERYL A. KUENZER  
CHAIRPERSON  
VENDELLA M. COLLINS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Mike Shirkey  
PO Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

June 5, 2013

Dear Representative Shirkey:

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council is a 21 member body of citizens appointed by the Governor to advocate for persons with developmental disabilities. We are pleased that the House of Representatives is considering the Medicaid Expansion with House Bill 4714. However, we do have several concerns with the bill, including the following:

- This legislation requires the Michigan Department of Community Health to obtain a waiver from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This waiver would permit Michigan to expand Medicaid according to the provisions listed below.
- Michigan will participate in the Medicaid Expansion only for the period when the federal government pays 100% of the cost of the expansion. (Beginning in 2017, federal financing would drop to 95 %.) **In reality, this would mean that the expansion would last only three to four years. The Council agrees with the Governor who questions whether HHS would grant such a waiver.**
- People receiving Medicaid Expansion health services will be required to contribute up to 5% of their annual income through co-pays, deductibles or premiums, but exemptions may be possible. **This has been a problem in the past, as some people living at or near the poverty level cannot afford co-pays, which prevents them from getting medical and dental care.**

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Adults, according to the legislation, include persons from age 21 to 65. The legislative intent is not clear for young adults aged 19 and 20, who may or may not be employed. They are not all fortunate enough to have a parent with health benefits, that they can be the beneficiary of under certain eligibility requirements as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

**In conclusion:**

**The council urges the committee to reconsider support for the Governor's proposal for Medicaid Expansion. We believe that Michigan need to offer the best protection and health insurance for most Michigan citizens at the least cost to the state and the individual, to get to a healthy Michigan.** Thank you for considering our point of view on this very important issue. As always, if you have any questions or concerns on disability or developmental disability issues please contact our office. You may reach us at (517) 335-3158.

***Testimony provided by Paul Palmer, Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council Member, and Public Policy Committee Co-Chair on behalf of Sheryl Kuenzer, Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council Chairperson.***